UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2002/108
18 January 2002

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Item 17 (a) of the provisional agenda

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Question of the death penalty

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 2001/68, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit to the Commission, at its fifty-eighth session, in consultation with Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, a yearly supplement on changes in law and practice concerning the death penalty worldwide to his quinquennial report on capital punishment and implementation of the Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, paying special attention to the imposition of the death penalty against persons younger than 18 years of age at the time of the offence.

2. The quinquennial reports on capital punishment and implementation of the Safeguards guaranteeing the rights of those facing the death penalty have been prepared under the auspices of the Centre for International Crime Prevention at the United Nations Office in Vienna (formerly the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat). To date, six

such reports have been submitted to the Economic and Social Council. The most recent one (E/2000/3) was submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 2000, to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its ninth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session.

3. In May 2001, a revised, updated version of the sixth quinquennial report, finalized in April 2001, was submitted to the Economic and Social Council and to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its tenth session (E/CN.15/2001/10).

4. In view of the fact that the substantially updated version of the sixth quinquennial report was finalized only in April 2001, the Secretariat believes it is appropriate to submit as a background document this updated report to the Commission in response to its request in resolution 2001/68.